(d) if so, how many permission have been granted under discretionary powers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The following are the number of new drug Applications received during the year 2001:
1. Investigational New Drug (IND)-2
2. New Drug Applications-56
3. Subsequent Applications for New Drug approval requiring Bio-equivalence studies-about 400.

(b) to (d) Application for permission for Clinical trials. Bio-equivalence studies and marketing of new drugs are examined by the New Drug Division in the office of DCG (I). The requirement for granting such approval are specified in Rules 122A, 122B, 122C, 122D, 122E and Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. The evaluation of new drug clinical trial is a complex process and varies according to the nature of molecule drug published data and information furnished by applicants. Therefore, depending upon the nature of the application, it may take on an average more than 5 years for approval of investigation New Drug (i.e. a drug molecule not tested on human beings anywhere in the world), about 1-3 years for the first time approval of the drug already approved elsewhere but requiring confirmatory clinical trial, and about 2-3 months for subsequent applications for already approved drugs. This is, however, subject to submission of all required data as per provisions of Schedule Y of Drug and Cosmetics Rules. Certain critical drugs e.g. anti-cancer, anti-HIV etc., which are important from the point of view of public health are also cleared on a fast track basis. Permissions are granted after taking into account the technical requirements and not on discretion.

Increase in cancer patients

†1522. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cancer patients is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any scheme is being formulated by Government to create awareness in the rural areas about this disease; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Time trend analysis of the data from population-based cancer registries over the last decade shows a small but significant increase in the overall incidence of cancer in the urban cancer registries, among both men and women.

Though there are year-to-year variations, available data suggest that incidence of certain cancers like cancer of esophagus, gall bladder, lung, stomach and rectum has shown increase in some registries, while incidence of cancer of mouth, pharynx and cervix has shown a downward trend in certain registries.

(c) and (d) Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry is implementing various schemes aimed at creating awareness among the people and also to facilitate treatment and research activities. The details of these schemes may kindly be seen at Statement (*See* below).

In addition to above this Ministry has a scheme namely National Illness Assistance Fund under which financial assistance is provided to people living below the poverty line suffering from serious diseases including Cancer.

Statement

National Cancer Control Programme
Development of Oncology Wing

This scheme is available only for Government Medical Colleges to fill up the geographical gaps in the detection and treatment of cancer in the country. Financial assistance upto Rs. 2.00 crores can be provided to an Institute under the scheme for purchase of listed equipments. This is a one-time grant.

Setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit

Financial assistance up to Rs.1.50 crore is provided to State Government for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit in Government institutions. This is a one-time grant.

An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore is also provided for Cobalt Therapy Unit to the Non-Governmental Organisations on the specific recommendations of the State Government. This is a one-time grant.

Assistance for Mammography Unit

The Mammography equipment has also been included under the scheme for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit. A Central assistance up to Rs. 30.00 lakhs can be provided to those Institutions/ Organisations who have the facilities for treatment of cancer patients and has well-equipped Radiotherapy Department. This is also a one-time grant.

District Cancer Control Programme

A scheme for district project (duration-five years) for health education, detection and pain relief measures under National Cancer Control Programme was initiated during the year 1990-91. In this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakhs is provided to the State Government/UT administration for each district selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs per annum for each district for the remaining four years of the project period. After five years, the project is to be taken over by the State Government.

Voluntary Organisation Scheme

The scheme up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs is provided to the Voluntary Organisations for undertaking health education and early detection activities in cancer on the specific recommendations of the State Government.

Regional Cancer Centres

This Ministry has recognised 19 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs and an amount of 75.00 lakhs annually is

provided for procurement of equipment for development of the Institution. These RCCs extend treatment facilities and conduct research in the field of Cancer.

News-item, "Davaon kee Sarkari Kharid Main Bhi Karodon Kai Ghapale"

1523. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Davaon kee Sarkari Kharid Main Bhi Karodon Kai Ghapale", which appeared in Navbharat Times, dated the 30th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The procedure for registration of firms is governed by the Medical Store's Manual and the orders issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Drugs from unregistered firms are not purchased except during emergencies like flood, drought, earthquake, cyclone etc. drugs may be purchased from unregistered firms to meet urgent requirement with the permission of the competent authority. Further, drug samples are picked up at random coded and sent to two different laboratories for testing. There have been occasional departures from the procedure due to unavoidable circumstances like compliance with urgent indents etc. Any complaint with regard to the irregularities in procedures in the procurement of drugs through Medical Store is immediately got enquired into and where necessary through CBI, to fix responsibility on the officials concerned and departmental proceedings are initiated. If any case of supply of sub-standard drugs comes to notice, immediate action is taken to return the available stock to the supplier firm, to get replacements.